



NEWS RELEASE



MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

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EQUAL PAY DAY OBSERVED ON TUESDAY

Equal Pay Day Recognizes Women Working in the Red

On Tuesday, April 19, 2005 thousands of women from across the United States will join in a national day of action against unfair pay called Equal Pay Day. April is symbolic of the point into the new year that a woman must work in order to earn the wages paid to a man in the previous year. On a national level, women are paid only 77 cents for every dollar a man is paid, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. So, because women earn less, we must work longer for the same pay.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission is calling for women to wear red attire on Tuesday to bring about awareness in the community of pay inequities. Working women are extremely concerned about pay inequity, not only for themselves, but for their family.

At a time when America's economy is facing a downturn, every penny counts! According to the AFL-CIO, over a 40-year career, the average 25-year-old woman who works full-time will earn approximately \$523,000 less than the average man, if current wage patterns continue.

Fair pay takes real changes! Here in Lincoln and Lancaster County, we will join hundreds of other organizations across the nation to educate women and men about pay inequity and to offer solutions to wage discrimination. City Council member Annette McRoy will present the Proclamation on behalf of Mayor Seng to the Council of Women Leaders networking dinner held at 5:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown to acknowledge Tuesday, April 19th, as Equal Pay Day. Reservations are still open for the event.

The proclamation will further encourage the business community to review their pay practices to ensure that women are not discriminated against by performing an Equal Pay Self-Audit provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau.

For more information, contact the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission at 441-7716 or e-mail to: llwc@lincoln.ne.gov.